GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2591
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006
DIAMOND TRADE WITH CANADA
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of trade with Canada;

(b) whether the Government has recently signed any agreement with Canada for the mining of diamond as reported in Dainik Jagran dated February 23, 2006;

(c) if so, the details and facts thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by both the countries to boost the trade?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): According to the figures released by `Statistics Canada`, diamond exports from India to Canada during 2005 amounted to 98.997 million Canadian dollars, while Canada`s exports of diamonds to India during 2005 amounted to 7.917 million Canadian dollars.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): Efforts are being made by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and the High Commission of India to boost the trade in diamonds, including the visit by an Indian delegation to discuss the possibility of cooperation in diamond mining and direct procurement of rough diamonds.